

## Iran calls off children POW deal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday Iran had called off a deal whereby Iraq was to have handed over in Turkey last Tuesday Iranian children held as prisoners-of-war. The handover was set up by the Geneva-based International Red Cross, and Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman told the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Iran told the Red Cross on Feb. 10 it would not take the children back on that date and a new date should be set, no sooner than March 26, the spokesman said. Iraq says it has captured an unspecified number of children sent into battle by Iran during the 29-month Gulf war, and that it wants to return some of them unconditionally.

# Jordan Times

An independent and political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## Reagan promises more aid to Greece

ATHENS (R) — President Reagan has promised Greece more military aid, linked to negotiations on the future of U.S. bases which the socialist government wants to close down. The American ambassador in Athens, Montague Stearns, delivered a letter from Mr. Reagan to the office of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandriou, and a Greek government official gave copies to reporters Saturday. Mr. Reagan was replying to a letter earlier this month from Mr. Papandriou, who told him that if he carried out a proposal to give Turkey for more aid than Greece, this could upset the talks about the bases.

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## Pentagon asks for \$229m to build RDF

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon has asked congress for \$229 million to build Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) facilities and other installations in the Middle East and South-West Asia, according to documents released Friday. It also asked for \$148 million to build sites for Cruise missiles to be deployed in five West European countries starting in December. A total of \$96.4 million was requested for army and air force facilities at the Egyptian military base at Ras Banas, near Cairo, and \$99.6 million for facilities at several locations in Oman.

## Bombs explode near French offices in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — Bombs exploded outside the offices of Air France, the French consulate and a French school in Karachi Saturday but there were no casualties, police said. Deputy inspector general of police in Karachi, Mir Amin, told Reuters no group had so far claimed responsibility for the blasts which went off within about 10 minutes of each other.

## 13 shot dead in Seattle

SEATTLE (R) — Gunmen bound and murdered 13 people, mostly Chinese, with single gunshots in the head in the so-called international district of Seattle Saturday, police said. A 14th victim who was shot in a private club managed to crawl into an adjoining alley and called for help, police said. They said few details were available, but police believed the club, Wah Mee, had been used for gambling.

## Paris to try officer on drug charges

PARIS (R) — Lt.-Col. Roland Deveaux, detained in Cairo for alleged drug trafficking, will be returned to France to be tried, French Defence Minister Charles Hernu said Saturday. In a radio interview, Mr. Hernu said France had approached the Egyptian government to obtain the release of the officer, attached to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East. He was arrested at Cairo airport early this month for allegedly possessing 38 kilograms of marijuana, according to French press reports.

## 96 SWAPO men reported killed

WINDHOEK (R) — South African security forces have shot dead 96 guerrillas in the northern part of Namibia (South West Africa), forces headquarters said in a statement here Saturday. It said the guerrillas, belonging to the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO), had infiltrated the territory over a wide area.

## Mujahedeen say 5 Iranians killed

PARIS (R) — The Iranian leftist opposition Mujahedeen organisation said Saturday that guerrillas had killed five members of the Iranian government's paramilitary corps in three separate clashes recently. The Mujahedeen's Paris office said in a communique that "resistance units" based in forest areas along Iran's Caspian Sea coast had killed five revolutionary guards in incidents in northern Iran on Jan. 24 and 26 and Feb. 10.

## PNC continues strategy debate Jibril, Khalaf clash over Arafat's line

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat's pragmatic attitude to Middle East peace moves came under strong attack from PLO hardliners Saturday but also won support for the first time in five days of debate at the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Addressing the 16th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's policy-making body, Ahmad Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command (PFLP-GC) accused Mr. Arafat of "dictatorship" in the debate on future strategy.

But in the first clear speech in support of the PLO chairman, close Arafat aide Salah Khalaf dismissed Mr. Jibril as "a child giving us lessons in revolution."

In a clear reference to Mr. Arafat's links with moderate Arab states, Mr. Jibril asked: "Which side are we being pushed to, that of imperialism or oil?"

He accused Mr. Arafat, without naming him, of violating PLO basic law by having contacts with "Zionists" — an allusion to the PLO chairman's meeting with three prominent Israeli pacifists in Tunis last month.

Mr. Jibril suggested such contacts were helpful to get to know the mentality of the Israelis and urged the council to think deeply about them. "Ignoring slogans,"

Mr. Jibril, who is regarded as close to Libya, said Mr. Arafat's recent contacts with Jordan should stop immediately.

But Mr. Khalaf called on the PNC to examine carefully the PLO's relations with Jordan and said he would agree to a confederation between the kingdom and a future independent Palestinian state.

The PFLP-GC chief flatly rejected an Arab League peace plan adopted last September in the Moroccan city of Fez.

This was interpreted as indirectly recognising Israel's existence within its pre-1967 borders in return for the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip. He described Fez as "an American summit." But Mr. Khalaf said: "I am with Fez. It was an Arab choice. It opens new horizons. Our people, which has struggled, has to be presented with realistic solutions."

The Fez plan is expected to be endorsed by the 10-day meeting, its first since last summer's fighting in Beirut.

But President Reagan's call for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan in the West Bank and Gaza was dismissed by all speakers, including Mr. Khalaf.

Mr. Jibril called for special relations with Syria, which he said were a necessary condition for continuing the armed struggle.

Mr. Khalaf replied: "We are not against relations with Syria, but the point is whether Syria accepts us as we are, with our independent decision-making process."

Mr. Jibril suggested that the Palestinian fighters, who were dispersed among eight Arab countries after leaving Lebanon, should regroup in the countries of the "steadfastness front" — Algeria, Libya, Syria and South Yemen.

Mr. Khalaf said the Palestinians fought alone in Beirut last year and criticised Syria and Libya for not supplying the fighters with weapons.

Referring to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's call for the collective suicide of PLO fighters during the Beirut siege, Mr. Khalaf said: "We would have liked those who said that to be there with us, falling with our people."

Mr. Khalaf, who is one of the leaders of Mr. Arafat's Fateh organisation, backbone of the PLO, added: "I accept Libya if it makes its oil available to the Palestinian revolution."

ing at their airport base.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said this was because the Marines' position was farther south than those of the French and Italians and farther away from key areas of east Beirut and its suburbs.

Asked if there were any political reasons such as the use by Israeli invasion forces of certain roads through Greater Beirut for the decision against fixed positions, as some Beirut newspapers have speculated, the spokesman said: "Not as far as I know."

Since the Greater Beirut plan started, Israeli patrols have made at least two attempts to deviate from the roads assigned to them and drive past Lebanese army checkpoints.

Earlier there were several confrontations — none of them resulting in shooting — between the Israelis and Marine positions near the airport.

## Marines patrol E. Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — U.S. Marines began patrolling new areas of rightist east Beirut Saturday, joining French and Italian units helping the Lebanese army in its security plan for the whole of "Greater Beirut."

A Marines spokesman said four jeeps containing 15 Marines and one Lebanese liaison officer set out Saturday from the Marine headquarters beside Beirut International Airport.

The Lebanese army took control of Greater Beirut last Tuesday when it replaced the predominantly rightist militias which till then had handled security in east Beirut. The army moved into the mainly Muslim western half of the city last September.

French and Italian troops from the multi-national force in Beirut set up checkpoints in east Beirut on Wednesday, but the Marines decided to restrict themselves to mobile patrols, starting and ending

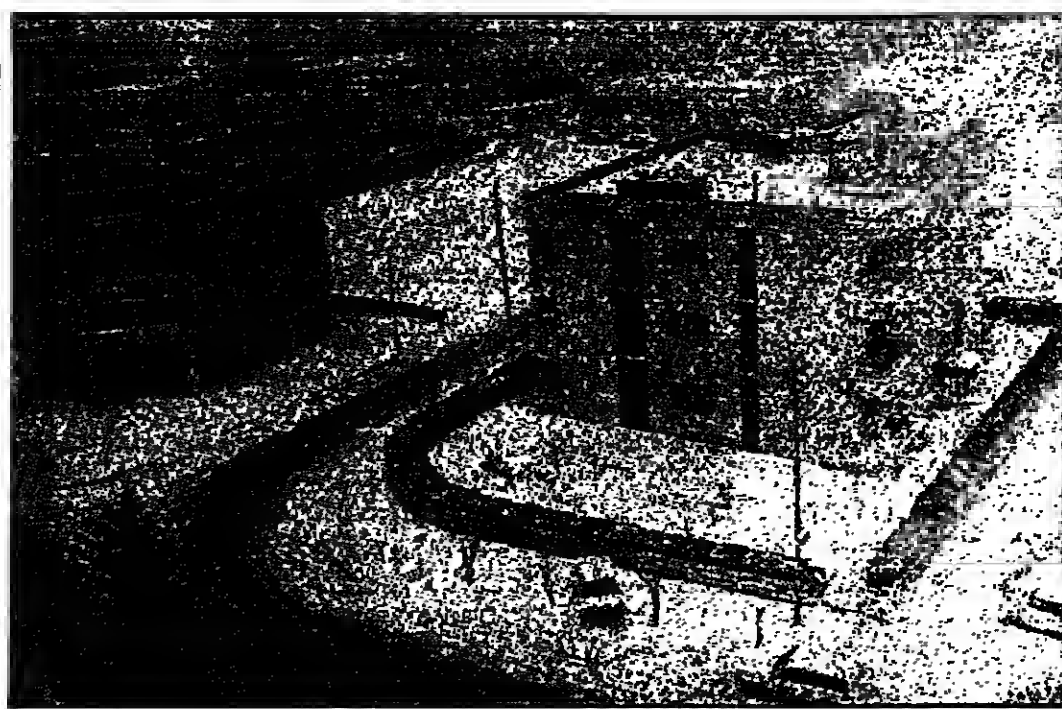
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Amman streets turn white Saturday as a result of severe storm snowstorms which began Friday night (Photo by Rifa'at Al 'Allan)

## Amman turns white all over again

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heavy snowfall caused the closure of some of the main roads outside the capital, and educational institutions in Amman, including the University of Jordan, were closed Saturday.

The snowstorm, which started late Friday afternoon, was a result of a depression, accompanied by a cold air mass, which kept snow falling over almost all the hilly areas in the country throughout Friday night and Saturday, the weather bureau said.

Meteorological Department's reports say that the effect of the depression has started easing due to its movement to northeast Turkey. The effect of the cold mass will continue, and the sky will remain cloudy with the possibility of continued snow and rain fall, the department said.

According to a spokesman of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, air traffic at Amman Airport remained active although with a delay of an hour or two for most departures. He clarified that the delay was a result of late arrival of passengers and crew from Amman and other Jordanian cities because of closed roads and difficulties in traffic. Arrivals at Amman Airport also were delayed because of belated departures from some airports in expectation of weather improvement in Jordan.

Civil defence personnel were put on the alert, and Amman's main roads were open for traffic in the early morning. An Amman Municipality spokesman said emergency teams have been set up to work around the clock at disposing with water in flooded streets, and at keeping sewage pipes working to get rid of excess water.

Requests for help from the public are being responded to and dealt with immediately, the spokesman added.

Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi said continued snow and rainfall will increase the volume of underground water and raise the levels of dams, particularly that of King Talal Dam. He advised farmers of non-irrigated land, who have not yet cultivated their lands, to plant summer crops, and said that the amount of rainfall will help develop good pasture areas in the eastern part of the country.

**Snow strikes again**  
Due to prevailing weather conditions, the Jordan Times today appears in six pages only.

## UNRWA reports intimidation against refugees

VIENNA (R) — A "campaign of terror" is being stepped up against Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said Saturday.

Threatening leaflets have been distributed in Adloun, Sarafand and other villages in the Zahran district of Sidon, the Vienna-based agency said in a statement.

It quoted U.N. officials in Lebanon as reporting an increased terror campaign.

The leaflets told Palestinians: "Go to camps and whoever does not within 24 hours will bear full responsibility for his actions."

They were signed by a group calling itself "Lebanese unity" and ended with the Arabic proverb "he who forewarns is exonerated," the statement said.

The leaflets were hung on the doors of Palestinians homes in plastic bags weighted with stones.

Last week, UNRWA said that 15 bodies, many of them Palestinian refugees, had been found near Ain Al-Hiwah refugee camp in the Sidon area. Three had been burned.

UNRWA head Olof Rydbeck said Israeli forces controlling the area were responsible for the safety of civilians there.

Mr. Rydbeck is due to travel to U.N. headquarters in New York on Wednesday to discuss security in Lebanon with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, UNRWA said.

U.N. sources said the meeting, arranged before the present attacks, would focus on the latest incidents in what seemed to be a campaign to expel Palestinians from Lebanon.

It said a grenade destroyed the car of a Palestinian living in the Qaya'a suburb of Sidon. The next day, armed men forced the man to leave his home.

Five families living in Abra village, including an UNRWA teacher, were also warned to leave, it said.

The statement added: "The atmosphere of terror has been heightened by an unconfirmed report that a Lebanese opponent of attacks on Palestinians was kidnapped late Thursday night. When his father and wife tried to intervene, the father was shot dead, according to the report."

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## King arrives in London

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in London Saturday afternoon for a visit expected to last several days. During the visit King Hussein will meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Foreign Secretary Francis Pym and several other British officials.

King Hussein, accompanied by a Jordanian delegation, arrived in the British capital from Belgrade, where he held talks with President Petar Stambolic and other senior Yugoslav officials.

Upon departure from Belgrade, King Hussein was accorded an official farewell ceremony in which President Stambolic and senior Yugoslav officials took part. The final meeting between King Hussein and President Stambolic was held Saturday morning when they

held follow-up talks on the subjects discussed Friday, centering mainly on the Middle East issue and the forthcoming non-aligned conference to be held in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by senior Yugoslav aides and the Jordanian delegation.

King Hussein also held a meeting with the Yugoslav defence minister to discuss scopes of military cooperation between Jordan and Yugoslavia.

As these meetings were going on, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met with a number of Yugoslav officials to discuss subjects connected with the non-aligned conference next month.

Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Saturday returned to Amman after the talks.

## Algerian says Iran does not want Iraqi government's ouster

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria, which has tried to mediate in the Gulf war, said Saturday that Iran's demand for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to step down was no longer a condition for peace negotiations with the Baghdad Government.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim told a press conference that Iran had dropped this pre-condition when its prime minister visited Algiers last year.

Arab diplomatic sources said Mr. Taleb Ibrahim's remarks were a new development but Iranian sources, informed of what he said, seemed unaware of such a change in the Iranian demands.

Iran had set three conditions to end the Gulf war: The fall of the Baathist government in Iraq, the withdrawal of Iraqi troops to the internationally-recognised borders and Iraq's payment of \$150 billion in war compensations.

The Algerian foreign minister said only the latter Iranian conditions remained a stumbling block to a peaceful settlement.

But he added that the Algerian mediation was continuing despite "difficulties" and the new offensive launched by Iran earlier this month.

**Syria-PLO 'mediation'**

In answer to questions about current reports that Algeria was also mediating between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose relations were strained after last summer's Israeli siege of Beirut, Mr. Taleb Ibrahim said Algeria was working towards a "rapprochement."

Asked about reports of contacts between Algeria and Morocco, at odds over the Western Sahara issue, Mr. Taleb Ibrahim said these contacts had been maintained since 1978 although the Rabat Government severed relations with Algiers in 1976.

He said: "We maintain our position under which the dispute is a mere Moroccan-Polish problem."

**W.Saharan dispute**

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He said the so-called Arab Confrontation and Steadfastness Front formed by Algeria, Libya, South Yemen, Syria and the PLO after the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt visited Jerusalem in 1977 was now obsolete.

A PLO spokesman said two days ago in Algiers, where the PLO is now holding the 16th session of its parliament-in-exile, that the steadfastness front died in Beirut, implying that the front's member states were not more active than the rest of the Arab World in helping the PLO during the siege.

Mr. Taleb Ibrahim said the front had become formed to help the Palestinians and the Algeria's view was the same as that of the Palestinians—that after Israel's invasion of Lebanon the front had become obsolete and that a joint Arab stand was necessary.

He reiterated Algeria's commitment to the peace plan adopted by the Arab summit conference held in Fez last year but said that if the PLO's current decision in Algiers took further decisions Algeria would support them.

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# FEATURES

## Italy's political classes 'not used to satire'

By Michael Sheridan

Reuter

ROME — When Amintore Fanfani succeeded Giovanni Spadolini as prime minister last December, an irascible dwarf took over the star role in the front-page cartoon of a prominent Italian newspaper and a tearful, fat baby with no clothes on was moved back to the supporting cast.

The wicked caricatures come from the pen of Giorgio Forattini, a cartoonist who, to the mortification of his famous victims, delights readers of the serious La Stampa.

Anyone who depicts Italy's leading politicians as dwarves, fat babies or smug Machiavellis should beware, for he treads on the "bella figura" dear to the nation's public figures.

They like to be taken seriously and there are laws quietly left on

the statute book since the days of fascism and monarchy, that make insulting an office or titleholder a risky business.

But in Forattini's case, it seems, no holds are barred.

It must have been something of a shock, nevertheless, for 75-year-old Prime Minister Fanfani to open his morning paper and see himself portrayed as an angry midge.

Just as uncomfortable, probably, as it was for Mr. Spadolini to be drawn invariably as a quivering mass of obese flesh on the verge of tears and nearly always stark naked.

It may just be good luck, but President Sandro Pertini, who is easily the country's most popular politician, gets off lightly, appearing as a mischievous, sprightly old man.

Giulio Andreotti, for example,

a Christian Democrat who has been prime minister five times, appears rubbing his hands craftily with a Machiavellian smile.

The balding, burly Socialist Party leader, Bettino Craxi, is given a face contorted with scheming behind enormous owlish spectacles.

Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer somehow emerges as bearing an uncanny resemblance to the late Leonid Brezhnev.

While political polemic is common in Italy, satire is not. The most turgid political wranglings and declarations are solemnly analysed by state television and each party has its tame newspaper.

The comings and goings of politicians and the revolving door of the prime minister's office occupy hundreds of pages of highbrow comment.

In a recent look at how For-

attini's subjects view his work, La Stampa, owned by Fiat boss Giovanni Agnelli, prefaced its findings with the observation that "our political classes are not used to satire."

"Vain, irritable, cantankerous and insatiable" appeared to be Forattini's view of them, the paper said.

La Stampa said that while most politicians laughed off the cartoonist, they inwardly writhed in embarrassment. They were used to sham criticism and canned applause on state television, it said, and Forattini was an assault on "pseudo-satire."

One person who agrees is President Pertini: "I'm sorry that Italy has lost the tradition of satirical papers... which is a sign of great vitality," he told La Stampa. Forattini sends me originals and I guard them all jealously."

## Malaysia's successful crackdown on drug smugglers

By Reg Gratton

Reuter

PENANG, Malaysia — Malaysia's police are reporting successes in their stepped-up war on international drugs smugglers using the Northern Malaysia resort island of Penang.

They arrested nearly 2,500 people for possession of drugs last year and seized more than 40 kilograms of heroin, seven times the amount recovered in 1981, according to Penang police chief Zaman Khan.

More than 70 of those held are charged with drug trafficking which carries either the death penalty or life imprisonment. Nearly half are foreigners, including 13 Australians, nine Hong Kong Chinese and others from New Zealand, Britain, France, Ireland and the United States. Mr. Khan said police had nearly

doubled the strength of their anti-drug squad and had increased cooperation with other police branches and customs authorities.

The federal government, which approved the new campaign, is worried by a rise in trade through Penang from the notorious opium-growing "Golden Triangle" on the borders of Thailand, Burma and Laos.

Bumper opium poppy harvests there of between 600 to 700 tons have led to more drugs being smuggled in by boat or by land through southern Thailand, officials said.

The courts have reacted by getting tougher. Last year, 23 traffickers were hanged compared with four in the previous six years.

The police are urging the government to make the death penalty automatic for drug trafficking and want the government given the power to confiscate the property of anyone involved in a drug

smuggling. Police are also pressing for the mandatory death penalty for anyone caught with illegal drugs at airports or other exits.

At present, anyone caught in possession of more than 100 grammes of heroin or morphine is presumed to be a trafficker and faces the death penalty or life imprisonment.

"But we can charge a man with trafficking with only a few grammes if we have the evidence," Mr. Khan said.

He said many foreigners caught on the island were careless and seemed ignorant of the law. Police want the 100-gramme limit dropped to 25 grammes for heroin or morphine and to 100 grammes for cannabis from 200 grammes.

They attribute the increased arrests and drug seizures and the

recent destruction of two heroin processing laboratories to better detection methods, but Mr. Khan said the syndicates still thrived.

Police say arrested drug couriers rarely talk because the syndicates have promised to look after their families if they are caught.

Drugs smuggled out of Penang through its international airport are mainly destined for Western Europe, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

But drug officials said competition in the U.S. and Europe from West Asian heroin, often of a higher quality, had made the closer Australian market more attractive.

This was reflected in the increasing number of Australians arrested — 13 last year — many of whom face the death penalty or life imprisonment if convicted.

# JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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## U.S. mayors to promote accord

## Studies reveal problems of building on clay soil

The research has conclusively shown that the damage to buildings is a result of swelling and shrinking of clay under the fou-

## problems a clay soil

## Court fines unscrupulous traders

**AMMAN (Petra) —** Seventy Jordanian merchants have been fined between JD 25 and JD 200 each by the military court for violating Ministry of Supply Regulations and manipulating prices. The military governor Saturday endorsed the sentences.

## Mayor of Jericho to back joint PLO-Jordan links

The delegation will also express its citizens' full support and backing for His Majesty King Hussein's policies with regard to the Palestinian question, and will urge a continuation of the close relationship existing between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan.

Swiss exports to Jordao amounted to 66.7 million Swiss francs in 1982 compared to 82.1 million in 1981. Major items included machinery 38 per cent in 1982, chemical products 18 per cent, watches nine per cent, vehicles nine per cent, metals six per cent, instruments five per cent and textiles four per cent. Direct Swiss imports from Jordan were 1.2 million Swiss francs in 1982, consisting mostly of precious metals and jewelry.

## Fund-raising art exhibition excels, but only in patches

Although he exhibited in London last Autumn it has been over two years since we in Jordan have seen any new work from Mahmood Taha. It has been worth the wait for the elegantly tall blue vase with its delicate abstract patterning is quite inspirational. Its

Having recently returned from his fine art studies in the States Karam Nimri is now working as a

designer with Jordan Television. His work, previously small, but massive figures with powerful presence is now more abstract, his forms, full of Moore-like voids, thrust dynamically upwards. This gives the welded steel of "The Wave" a lightness the material does not innately possess while the smoothness of the metal gives the thrusting curves a flowing movement. "Waiting" achieves much of its beauty from the patterns, and the different tones and textures of the wood itself and Nimri, realising this, has carved the piece so as to enhance the natural mov-

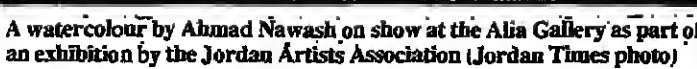
The same precision, the same careful curves spill over into this artist's drawings, where these qualities are further augmented by large expanses of pure white paper. The confident cleanness of the lines of her figures are enhanced by the ochre background

More successful abstract pieces come from Mamoun Doubian and Omar Hamdan. Both are full of movement. In Doubian's "Canvas Lines" the blocky strips brush under wild drips of yellow, while Hamdan's cooler, more controlled creamy colours create depths as they dash into an off-centre collision.

Finally, along with the work of Ahmad Nawash, Nasr Abida, Azziz and the pencil sketch of Namat Al Naser, the watercolours of Khader Naim deserve a mention. In soft spontaneous washes he has managed to capture the misty distances of the countryside while in rough cubes of ochre and siennas which rise to the horizon, the bags portrayed the traditional shape of Jordanian architecture, and imbued it with an evocative light.

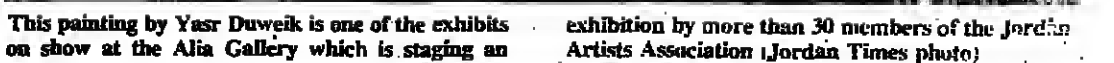
Already after only two days, more than 100 copies have been sold to the public several pieces have been sold and it is hoped they will sell many more. Prices range from around JD 55 to JD 600. The exhibition runs until Tues. Feb. 22.

**please phone our office on Tel. No. 666264 between 3 and 5 o'clock in afternoon.**

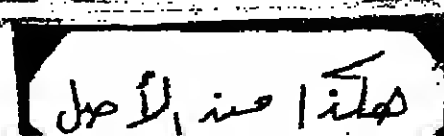
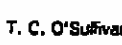


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## COME TO THINK OF IT...

By Ibrahim Abu Nab

## Fragile -- handle with care

NEED I repeat the story of Pandora's box before I come to what we are really talking about? Well, I find the repetition not irrelevant in the circumstances. It does at least take our minds away from the oppressive melancholy of our day without losing touch with reality.

In Greek mythology, as is known, Pandora was the first woman created by Zeus and sent by him to punish humankind.

Epimetheus, the fool, fell for her and married her despite all warnings from his brother Prometheus. Zeus had given Pandora a certain box asking her never to open it. But she, out of a woman's curiosity, opened the box, thereby letting loose all ills and frailties of humankind. Hope alone remained in the box.

Well, I seem to have some hope from that box on my side that the publication of the report of the Israeli commission of inquiry into the massacre at Sabra and Shatila camps was something like the opening of

Pandora's box.

A friend of mine had asked me: Do you mean by that the punishment of mankind? "That is one way to look at it," I said, "but there is also another way. One of the ills of humankind which may have come out and escaped is a peculiar distortion in vision."

I read for instance Rami Khouri's "Can we learn from the contradiction?" in last Tuesday's Jordan Times, in which he says "it is a meaningless exercise to take the commission of inquiry's findings and from there to extrapolate about the global morality of immorality of Israel..." According to Mr. Khouri, "it would make a great deal more sense to treat the commission of inquiry as a separate, isolated phenomenon, rather than to see it as a mirror of all Israeli society."

First, I do not see how you can isolate the commission as a separate phenomenon from the rest of the Israeli setup unless you can do the same with every other Israeli institution such as the army, the Mossad

(the intelligence) the land grabbing and the rest of it. And if the commission of inquiry strikes somebody as a "valuable mechanism of political accountability," then the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) must also strike him as a valuable mechanism of military conquest as indeed it is for its patrons and organisers, and the Mossad also must be seen as a valuable instrument for covert operations. Every institution in Israel is in fact "valuable" in its own right for Israel. As for us, or the rest of the world, the "value" must, I think, be different. If Mr. Khouri thinks that there is something of value in the commission for us in the way of imitation, since we lack any kind of commission of inquiry into anything, then the debate must take a different course altogether and perhaps be on a different level.

It is one thing, I think, to look into your own shortcomings and try to find a suitable way out which can provide you with an effective mechanism of response to cha-

lenges, and another to look at your enemy's mechanisms with helpless admiration and desire to imitate unaware of the dangers of losing one's critical faculties.

I beg to differ with Mr. Khouri strongly where he says that "the political accountability of public officials" is "in the final analysis what we are talking about." What we are and were talking about is not this. It is how much the Israeli commission contributed to the revelation of truth, the real truth about Sabra and Shatila, and how effective of an instrument it was in doing justice.

I do not think that Mr. Khouri intended, knowingly, to confuse the issue since oversight is a well known hazard in this business of writing to which we all at one time or another are exposed. But I did see the Israeli commission of inquiry, though with full democratic lustre, slip into being an effective tool for a monumental historical and coverage using or abusing all the so-

called democratic rules of the game.

In this sense, the commission is a mirror of all Israeli society and cannot be isolated from it to be seen as a separate entity on its own. This is in harmony with a universal rule which says that the whole exists in every part, as has been shown visually by holography.

To answer Mr. Khouri's own question, no-one said that the "commission of inquiry is an aberration in the life of Israel" but "that it is part of an infinitely more complex conspiracy designed to give Israel the appearance of a democracy, and to hide its 'fascist' core." If Israel is so, and he, I think, agrees, then how can he make the emphatic assertion that "Israel is a democracy"? This must be right out of Pandora's box. But there remains the "hope" that the world will see and will not only be punished by this woman who was created and sent by the American Zeus who dwells now in the White House, not above the clouds.

## Saga of the Ph.D's

WITH two universities in full swing and a third on the move, there is in Jordan today a growing need for controlling the inescapable spread of the Ph.D. mania that has started to sweep across our society during the past several years.

No matter how loud voices are often raised against too much education for the sake of hanging degrees on the wall, but mainly to gain social respectability, only a few will doubt that Jordan is still in need of more researchers, academicians and university teachers. But can we, in a small and almost resourceless country like ours, afford to experience a glut of highly specialised but hardly needed doctorates, when in fact there seems to be lack of proper utilisation of what we have researched already?

There should indeed be a place in the society for every piece of technical or social research done by our graduates and others, but what have we actually done so far to curb the stages of the qualified in many other important areas?

Lately, there has been disturbing signs that

even those scholars who are sent for higher education abroad by Jordanian universities and other public sector institutions return home only to find that their doctorates of science and philosophy could not be put to good -- or any other kind of -- use by their own institutions, sometimes simply because what had happened did not actually match what was in the plan a few years ago. Unfortunately, many of these scholars today are faced either with the difficult choice of accepting to thrive on stated hopes for the future or quitting the country altogether.

The problem of experiencing a glut in the over-qualified when there are shortages of the qualified should be of no small concern to us. In fact, we do need the Ph.D's and those who have them. What we do not need, however, is doctor cab drivers, roaming the streets of Amman and only adding to the chaos and frustration there. It is indeed ironic how many Jordanians have heard, or were personally driven by, highly qualified cabbies in New York City, and, yet, only a few of them know how many redundant Ph.D's there are today in Jordan.

## JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

## Al Ra'i: Non-aligned can help temper Israeli extremists

His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Romania and Yugoslavia, and the talks he has held with the two countries' leaders is yet another chapter in the King's tireless effort to rally support for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

In his talks and statements in the two countries, the King emphasised the important role that can be played by all peace-loving peoples, particularly in Non-Aligned Movement, both to end the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

## Al Dustour: Israeli crimes in Lebanon continue unchecked

Reports on the situation in southern Lebanon emphasise that the Israeli inhuman practices still go on unchecked, even after the Israeli withdrawal from Beirut and the withdrawal of the Palestinian freedom fighters from the Lebanese capital. The EEC's intended motion to lessen the sufferings of Palestinians being held under Israeli custody remained in-chamber talk, and, following the Sabra and Shatila massacre, tens of Palestinians are still reported as going missing, particularly from the Ansar concentration camp, every month.

The Palestinian elderly people, women and children now have to suffer the agonies of homelessness after the Israelis bulldozed their camps and homes. Rain, hunger and continuous everyday suffering is intensified by the barbaric treatment

## Sawt Al Shaab: Hussein urges non-aligned to support peace

The situation in the Arab World does not give one the feeling that the Arabs are ready to use all their economic and international weight effectively to convince the world to implement the peace proposals arrived at by the Arab summit held in Fez, Morocco last September. The joint Jordanian-Palestinian effort must be the cornerstone of any Arab effort, but this needs energetic support from all the Arabs to prove effective.

His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to Romania and Yugoslavia are part of the effort Jordan

The stress the King laid on the time element shows that he is urging world public opinion immediately to concentrate its efforts on forcing Israeli plans to annex the occupied territories and sabotage the peace process.

The future of Mideast and world peace can not be left in the hands of the Israeli extremists; thus we hope that the non-aligned nations, especially Yugoslavia, will take part in the timely peace initiative for the region.

they receive at the hands of the Israeli forces and their accomplices. Undoubtedly the worst of these is Saed Haddad whose mercenaries are being helped by the invasion force to expand their subjugated areas and inflict new hardships on the Palestinian and even the Lebanese civilians.

Those who have reiterated *ad infinitum* their concern over human rights, and keep reminding the world of Nazi practices and the holocaust are indeed shameful in the way they remain silent over what is happening in southern Lebanon. It is every respectable human being's responsibility to do something to lessen the agonies of those under the Israeli neo-Nazi yoke, and the United Nations should move to put an end to the agonies of the Palestinians.

has been making to rally Arab and international support for the peace process in the Middle East. His visits to several leading world capitals are now being reinforced by approaching the Non-Aligned Movement through his visit to Belgrade. The forthcoming non-aligned summit in New Delhi is a respected forum which provides the opportunity to give a fillip to the peace process in the region. Certainly the King's visit to Yugoslavia has stressed the significance that the conference could have for the future of peace.

## Begin turns down the honourable option

David J. Goldberg

A few weeks ago in Israel, one of the country's best-known politicians outlined to me his scenario of what would happen once the Commission of Enquiry report into the refugees camp massacres was published. The report would severely criticise key figures in Mr. Begin's cabinet and the army, and put intolerable strain on the coalition government; minority parties would defect from Mr. Begin, compelling the Israeli president to call upon Mr. Peres, leader of the largest single party in the Knesset, to form an alternative government, as had recently happened in West Germany ("substituting one Helmut for another"); after a few months, new elections would be called, with Mr. Peres attracting voters by the authority of office, not as a wan contender.

Well, the Kahan Report has been published, a beacon of moral integrity and as a remorseless as forecast (compare it, for example, with our own anodyne Franks Report). But once again, Mr. Begin has confounded his opponents. He has managed to give the impression of accepting the report's substance, while doing all he can to avoid implementing its spirit. Thus he has reluctantly shed General Sharon as Defence Minister, but has retained him in the Cabinet.

If Mr. Begin does resign, it will not be as an admission of ultimate responsibility, but in order to fight a fresh election. Having waited nearly 30 years for power he will not lightly forgo it, when what is at stake is not merely the implementation of the report, but the future role of Israel among the nations, her relationship with Arab neighbours.

Were it simply a matter of acknowledging the report, Mr. Begin and his government would have

resigned already. After all, Mr. Begin is punctilious about the due process of law and parliamentary democracy modelled on Westminster -- as was his mentor Jabotinsky. Who would want to maul him about the Mother of Parliaments.

Nothing could be clearer, therefore, than that a prime minister who is accused of two days' dereliction of duty, whose defence and foreign ministers are savaged for incompetence and whose army leadership is censured, has only one honourable option.

Mr. Begin will not take it, because of more compelling considerations. He is determined to lay the foundations of a greater Israel which cannot be dis-

manted. Only a fool or a propagandist would claim that the brutal war in Lebanon was launched with the defensive aim of bringing peace to Galilee. It was designed to smash the PLO militarily and politically, in order to accelerate the process of colonisation on the West Bank.

## Role of the Sultan

There, land is being acquired by the provisions of an archaic Ottoman Land Act which casts Mr. Begin in the unlikely role of the Sultan. Settlers are being tempted to new towns like Ramot and Maale Adumim by cheap mortgages and generous loans, and

couples who cannot afford to live in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem calculate that at the very worst they will receive hefty compensation should the West Bank ever revert to Arab sovereignty.

In the meantime, property advertisements assure them that new roads are being built which will bypass Arab villages.

With so much at stake, the report alone will not halt Mr. Begin and his colleagues. A government whose imperial delusions (as opposed to genuine security needs) can equally accept several hundred Israeli dead and wounded in the Lebanon escapade, let alone worldwide condemnation at the appalling toll of innocent civilians, is not likely to give way because three men find it guilty of negligence when Phalangists massacre Palestinians. It will require the same mass manifestation of public protest which demanded the inquiry in the first place, to insist upon its implementation.

## Crucial

That is why what happens now is crucial to the future of Israeli society. Already the two sides are lining up. Behind Mr. Begin and an unrepentant General Sharon is a sinister levy of West Bank settlers, army officers who resent being the scapegoat for political errors, underprivileged Sephardim, and all those who calculate that annexation can be made acceptable, provided that the Holocaust is invoked to deter criticism and anyone who exp-

resses reservations is accused of anti-semitism.

On the other side are all those who retain, however falteringly, the vision of a democratic, Zionist state founded on humane Jewish values and trying to reach accommodation with Arab neighbours. Those values have steadily been eroded over the past five years by the we-are-the-masters-now cockiness of the Likud Party. Nor has the pallid me-tooism of Mr. Peres on such issues as negotiating with the PLO or recognising Palestinian nationalism, offered a clear alternative to Mr. Begin's inflexibility.

In the past, security in the face of Arab intransigence has always been Israel's justifiable preoccupation. Nowadays though, she so dominates the Middle East military that the surrounding Arabs must feel about her as the twelve spies sent by Moses felt before the Promised Land's inhabitants. "We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we are in their sight."

Security is no longer the major concern. The issue is, quite simply, what kind of Israel do her people, and Jews worldwide, want? That question will be answered in coming weeks by the response to the Kahan Commission of Enquiry.

David J. Goldberg is Minister of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue.

-- Guardian



Steve Mendelson Washington Post

A divided opposition settled its dispute and chose a charismatic opponent  
Fraser's snap election turns out to be a big gambleBy Phil Bradshaw  
Retiree

SYDNEY — A snap election called by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser for March 5 in an effort to ambush a divided opposition has turned out to be a big gamble which he is no longer certain of winning. He was confident when he announced the poll that the Labour Party's long-running leadership squabble would weaken its chances and divert attention from the government's own economic problems.

But Labour had already made a decision and on the same day, February 3, announced it had settled the leadership question. So instead of facing a divided party led by the respected but uninspiring Bill Hayden, Mr. Fraser is now facing a united opposition led by the popular and powerful former trade union boss Bob Hawke. Mr. Fraser's current term of office, his third since wresting power from Labour in a 1975 constitutional crisis, could have run until next November. But with the economy slipping deeper into recession and showing no signs of recovery, Mr. Fraser decided he had a better chance of winning now than he would later in the year.

Political analysts said that with Mr. Hayden as his opponent, the prime minister would probably have won another three-year term

at the cost of a substantial reduction in the government's 21-seat majority in the House of Representatives.

But against the charismatic Mr. Hawke, shown consistently by opinion polls to be Australia's most popular politician, it will be a very close contest, they believe. Both men dominate their parties to such an extent that the election is now being seen almost wholly in terms of an American-style Fraser-versus-Hawke presidential contest.

Mr. Hawke has made the early running while Mr. Fraser, a wily and practised campaigner, is content to sit back and watch. The prime minister and his party machine have proved repeatedly in the past that they know how to pace themselves on the campaign trail.

This skill was apparent in 1980 when opinion polls showed Labour holding a commanding lead right up to polling day. As a result Labour eased off in the final week while Mr. Fraser stepped up the pace and within a few hours of the polls closing he was on the way to his party's victory celebrations.

The win made him Australia's second longest serving leader after Sir Robert Menzies who had a total 19 years. A fourth win would consolidate his place as one of the major figures in Australia's political history.

That place has long been assured by his part in the downfall of

the Gough Whitlam Labour government, sacked in 1975 by Governor-General Sir John Kerr amid alleged financial improprieties involving efforts to raise billions of dollars in loan funds.

## Ruthless drive

The ruthless drive exhibited then has become Mr. Fraser's hallmark. He rules the coalition and

Parliament in an abrasive, authoritarian manner which alienates many people but has won him considerable admiration in a country renowned for its strong-willed individuality.

The contrasts between Mr. Fraser and Bob Hawke are strong. Mr. Hawke is a newcomer to Parliament and was elected just over two years ago in pursuit of his freely stated ambition to be the next

Labour prime minister. In the previous ten years as president of the country's main union body, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, he had earned a remarkable reputation for his ability to resolve difficult industrial disputes.

That reputation is reflected in the party's campaign slogan "Bob Hawke -- bringing Australia together" and provides Labour with a useful counter to Mr. Fraser's challenge to the trade unions to end their opposition to his tough economic policies.

These include a pay freeze introduced late last year in an attempt to reverse the upward trend in inflation, which topped 11 per cent in 1982, and unemployment which is now just over 10 per cent. The unions protested against the lack of any price controls in the freeze legislation and persisted with substantial pay demands, leading to Mr. Fraser's "who rules the country" election move.

Mr. Hawke's response has been to promise a prices and incomes policy, which he forecasts will be accepted by the unions at a meeting later this month. If Labour is elected he has also promised to call a major meeting on Australia's economic problems to which all sides of industry, business and politics will be invited.

The pact with the unions is part of Labour's economic policy which was released last week. The

document talks generally of a national recovery and a reconstruction plan.

It outlines Labour's intentions to spend 2.75 billion dollars (\$2.67 billion) to boost economic growth to 5 per cent a year within three years by cutting taxes, creating an extra 500,000 jobs and stepping up public sector development. Almost 700,000 people are now out of work in Australia and the economy is expected either to stand still or contract by up to two per cent in the 1982/83 financial year ending June 30.

The standoff has resulted directly from the worldwide economic recession which reduced demand for Australia's vast output of minerals and other resources and has been worsened by the effects of one of the most severe droughts ever seen here. Full details of both parties' election manifestos will be published next week with the government's plans announced on Tuesday and Labour's the following day.

So far Mr. Hawke has been able to avoid going into detail because the media and the public are still captivated by his triumph in winning the leadership and his personal charm. But Labour Party officials say they really think Mr. Fraser will be making his first moves soon. Then Mr. Hawke's honeymoon period will be over and the race will be on in earnest.



Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser

## LETTERS

## IDF or IIF?

To the Editor:

When I listen to Israel Radio, I get so frustrated hearing the name Israeli "Defence" Force.

For the past 15 years, the so called Israeli Defence Force, has mainly been an army of intrusion and occupation, with thousands of troops tied down in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and recently in Lebanon.

When Israeli tanks rolled into Lebanon, last June, many soldiers expected their campaign to last only a few days. Four months later, with 335 Israeli troops dead and 2000 injured, many in the invasion force were questioning the utility of that mission, and now, after eight months, even more so. As one of the enlisted men in Beirut put it, "What are we doing here, we have no business being involved with these people. It's time to go home."

But no, they are not likely to go home, and Lebanon still remains at the mercy of forces beyond its control, of which the "Israeli Defence Force" comes on top. They practically control the whole country -- particularly the south -- politically and economically.

On the other hand, the harsh policies of Israeli occupation authorities on the West Bank, have begun to disturb a number of Israelis.

Col. Reuven Gal, the Israeli Army's chief psychologist, said that the shooting of Arabs during demonstrations had become "more commonplace" and that occupation duty was polarizing young Israelis.

Two Israeli reservists, one a lieutenant, refused to serve a one-month tour of duty on the West Bank. They were sentenced to 28 days in prison.

Members of the opposition Labour Party protested the army's use of live ammunition against demonstrators. "What should they do? die?" snapped Prime Minister Menachem Begin in response.

Lt. Gen. Rafael Eitan, the Israeli chief of staff, said the troops fired at demonstrators' legs only as a last resort. But the last resort appears to be happening very often.

The casualty list of 1982 was higher than the total for all fifteen previous years of military occupation.

The Israeli army should be called the Israeli Invasion Force, especially after their incursion in Lebanon.

Najwa Bay  
Amman



# ECONOMY

## World oil prices look set on a downward trend

LONDON (R) — World crude oil prices looked set on a downward trend Saturday, prompted by Britain's proposal to cut its North Sea price and a reported Nigerian decision to match the reduction.

A British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) recommendation of a \$3 cut to \$30.50 a barrel put heavy pressure on other major oil producers to trim their rates.

As anticipated, Norway swiftly matched the BNOC move and like Britain backdated its cut to Feb. 1. But an unexpected shock for traders came in industry reports from Lagos that Nigeria planned to cut its prices by up to \$5 to bring them into line with new North Sea rates.

Spot free market trading remained stagnant as traders sought to confirm and then assess the effects of Friday's fast-moving developments on the oil front.

Some analysts said confirmation of a sizeable Nigerian cut could provoke an uncontrolled price slide in the coming week as world producers followed suit in order to protect their share of an already depressed market.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Humberto Calderon Berti predicted, before the long-awaited BNOC proposal was confirmed, that a British price cut would be followed by other producers and could mark the start of a general price slide.

But he said his country would not drop its price. Venezuela would strictly follow OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) agreements and it would be unfortunate if the organisation followed Britain's lead.

ding over the leadership on oil prices to the North Sea," he said.

In the Gulf, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah was quoted as saying two unnamed OPEC producers now planned to sell their oil at \$30 a barrel, \$4 cheaper than the current OPEC market price.

Industry sources in Mexico, the world's fourth highest oil producer, which faces big economic problems, said it would have to follow Britain and Norway in cutting oil prices.

Industry analysts said the \$3 cut in prices for North Sea light crude put particularly strong pressure on Mexico, not an OPEC member, to cut the price of its Istmus crude, comparable in quality to Saudi light, the \$34 OPEC benchmark.

"The downward pressure on the oil price has begun and Mexico cannot be immune," said one well-informed industry analyst in Mexico City.

In response to questions about the British decision, the Mexican petroleum oil monopoly Pemex Friday repeated its position that it was closely following world oil market developments before making any pricing move.

Isthmus last year accounted for some 45 per cent of Mexico's 1.5 million barrel per day (b/d) exports, but recent developments had made the crude, priced at \$32.5 per barrel, increasingly vulnerable to price shifts in the world oil market, particularly Britain's move Friday.

Britain and Mexico compete in the United States light oil market, each exporting around 300,000-350,000 b/d of light to American customers, the analysts said.

"U.S. refiners are very res-

pensive to the market and they'll switch at the drop of the hat from Mexican crude to any other type that's cheaper," said one industry source.

In fact, the analysts noted, the outlook for Mexico was that a slow reaction to the price shifts could endanger its position as leading supplier of crude to the U.S., to which it last year sold some 750,000 b/d, including about 450,000 heavy Maya crude.

Speculation among Mexican and foreign industry sources centred on the timing of a price cut, with some sources predicting it would come before next Tuesday and others saying it might take until the end of the month.

The chain of pricing decisions Friday might not allow Mexico to delay a cut in price until after OPEC made a decision, they said.

The analysts noted that so far the price of Maya, which last year accounted for 55 per cent of exports, has not come under intense pressure.

They said that, at \$25 per barrel, Maya is priced about \$6 below comparable Venezuelan heavy, its main competitor in the U.S. market.

Any price drop will affect Mexico's plans for economic recovery by cutting into its projected \$17 billion revenue from hydrocarbon exports, including natural gas.

Conservative estimates indicate that a drop of \$1 in crude price would cost Mexico at least \$540 million in annual export income.

A series of producer cuts could renew pressure on BNOC, Britain's state trading company, to cut its official price even further. There was already some dissatisfaction among major oil companies Friday that the proposed BNOC cut had not been larger.

If the new British price establishes itself and other producers hold off cuts of their own, the 13 members of OPEC will still be under pressure to meet again to try to reach an output-sharing agreement, something they failed to do at a meeting in Geneva last month.

Meanwhile Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies hold talks in Riyadh Saturday on the world oil glut as they after the British proposal to cut North Sea oil prices plunged OPEC deeper into crisis.

Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council will discuss the oil problem which has slashed oil revenues of the six member states, Bahrain's Foreign Minister Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, told a Saudi newspaper.

Gulf oil analysts said the ministers would focus on oil, as they tried to devise a strategy for preserving their major source of revenue in a shrunken market.

Saudi Arabia and its fellow council members which are also in OPEC—Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—have been widely expected to cut their oil prices by about \$4 a barrel from a \$34 ref-

erence level. Oman and Bahrain, the other council states, are not OPEC members.

Oil experts in the Gulf have been predicting that council oil ministers would meet soon to agree on a coordinated reduction within OPEC.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleh Ibrahim said Saturday OPEC countries will probably have to lower their oil prices after Britain's cut in North Sea oil prices.

On the other hand Libya, faced with falling revenue from oil, is slashing development spending and taking a wide range of austerity measures, according to hand-detailed details released by the official Libyan news agency Jana Friday.

Libya's income from oil exports has been declining because it cannot sell its high-priced crude in the current oil glut. Its production is believed to have fallen below one million b/d compared to 1.8 million at the end of last year.

The General People's Congress, a form of parliament, approved a development budget for 1983 of 2.37 billion dinars (\$8 billion), down about nine per cent on last year.

It said priority in development should go to current projects, especially those nearing completion. No new commitments should be entered nor should there be any expansion of work on current projects, except for certain unspecified strategic ones.

The congress at the same time approved an increase of about 24 per cent in the administrative budget to 1.55 billion dinars (\$5.2 billion) compared with 1982, but recommended that the "administrative structure" should be pruned.

It urged civil servants to do four hours' economically productive work a day in addition to their office jobs.

The congress recommended that the working day should be increased from eight to 12 hours and the number of foreign workers in Libya should be reduced.

It said Libya should do without foreign workers in markets, ports, airports and foreigners employed as drivers or cleaning staffs. But it did not say whether any action would be taken immediately.

The congress said imports should be restricted to goods not available locally and there should be official supervision of consumption and imports.

The congress resolutions did not spell out the reasons for the austerity measures, which were contained in what was termed a "revolutionary programme for total mobilisation."

But Libyan leader Colonel Qadhafi indicated in a speech to the Congress that austerity was in store. He said that in 1983 Libyans should show the greatest possible consciousness of the world economic recession.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lloyds ups bad debts reserve

LONDON (R) — Lloyds Bank Friday announced that its provision for bad debts rose to £218.9 million (\$337 million) in 1982, more than two and a half times the figure for 1981. Chairman Sir Jeremy Morse said in a statement that the rise reflected the troubled state of the world economy.

### French union calls for new strike

PARIS (R) — Trade union leaders Friday called a new strike for next Monday at a giant Renault car factory at Flins near Paris, paralysed throughout January by a stoppage.

### Turkey fixes gold price

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Friday announced official buying and selling rates for gold, fixed for the whole of 1983, apparently in an attempt to curb the booming domestic market in the metal.

### Soviets work hard on gas pipeline

MOSCOW (APN) — The Soviet export gas pipeline, which is the centre of attention in the USSR and other countries, is entering its final stage. Two thirds of pipes have already been welded (its total length is 4,500 kilometres). In February the builders completed 20 kilometres of pipeline everyday. Such rates are unprecedented in the world practice.

### Poland's industrial output improves

WARSAW (R) — Polish industrial production was 18 per cent higher in January than in the same month of 1982 but fell by four per cent from December's output, the official press said Friday, quoting government statistics.

### S. Arabia, Spain expand ties

RIYADH (OPECNA) — Relations between Spain and Saudi Arabia are expanding rapidly, outgoing Spanish Ambassador Mr. Manuel Sasso said in an interview here. He said next month, Finance, Economy and Commerce Minister Mr. Miguel Boyer Salvador would visit Riyadh to attend a Spanish trade fair. Spain imports 30 per cent of its oil needs from Saudi Arabia, the ambassador pointed out. In 1980, Spain's imports from the kingdom were valued at \$3.16 billion, increasing to \$3.51 billion in 1981 and totalling \$1.61 billion in the first six months of 1982. Spain's exports to Saudi Arabia in 1980 amounted to \$457.44 million, rising to \$506.23 million in 1981. For the first half of 1982 the figure stood at \$288.4 million. Spain's exports to the kingdom include cement, steel, textiles and building materials. Mr. Sasso said joint industrial and agricultural ventures were being considered by the two countries.

## Arab banks boycott SWIFT

NEW YORK (J.T.) — Arab banks in the Gulf are boycotting the leading international system for transferring money around the world because 10 Israeli banks recently became members, according to banking and business sources here, the New York Times said Thursday. Western banks that are established in Bahrain, which is the banking centre for the Gulf region, are reluctantly going along with the boycott.

They say it would be difficult for them politically to join a communications system that the Arab banks oppose.

The Western banks also say that the Bahrain government would probably use its telecommunications monopoly to stop them from being members.

The communications system is called SWIFT — an acronym for the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications. Using computers, codes and satellite links, about 1,000 banks are able to transfer billions of dollars every day between customer accounts in more than 40 countries.

The cost is lower and the security is greater than would be possible by using ordinary telex messages. Banks in Bahrain now communicate with other banks around the world by mail, telephone and telex.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 20, 1983

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to look over your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Devise quicker ways to handle chores. Maintain a cheerful manner at all times.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make plans to gain your finest aims. Make certain that you understand exactly what close ties expect of you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can now develop good ideas for improving your personal and business life. Use tact in handling a communication.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take time to go over business matters with others for mutual gain. Try to be more understanding of others.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take steps to cooperate more with close ties instead of bucking them; and you get good results.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) There is much work ahead of you so waste no time early in the day in accomplishing your tasks. Control your temper.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Stay within your budget; if you go out for amusement or you will regret it later. Engage in favorite hobby.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle routine chores early in the day and bring more concord at home. Plan how to add to present income via new interest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study your monetary position and figure out a sensible way to improve it. Make needed property repairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan how to improve the quality of your life through idealistic concepts. Make this a most productive day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Making plans early in the day to gain your personal goals is wise. Take it easy tonight and express happiness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get in touch with fine friends who can help you solve a delicate problem. Take good care of your health.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan how to make your future brighter and then visit with friends and have a good time. Strive for happiness.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will find the right philosophy to follow at a comparatively young age and it will last a lifetime. Teach to handle money wisely, and to be more considerate of others. Don't neglect religious training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

## U.S. plans to recapture 'traditional markets'

WASHINGTON (R) — Administration officials said Friday the United States had drawn up proposals for selling subsidised farm products in world markets, an action which could increase trade tensions between the U.S. and Western Europe.

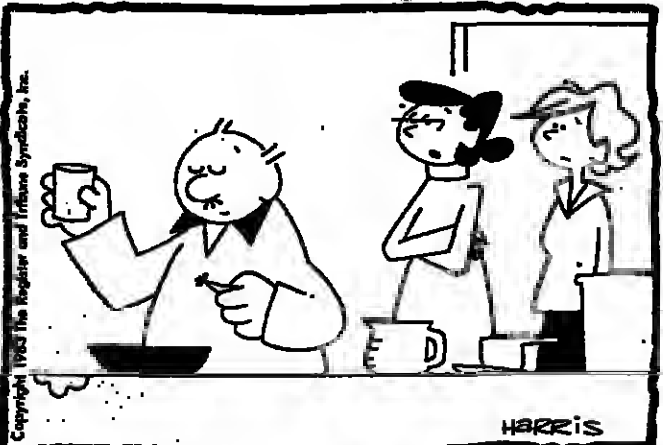
The proposals are designed to counter European and Brazilian subsidies and to recapture what the officials called traditional U.S. markets.

At trade talks last week in Brussels, European officials warned of retaliation if Washington went ahead with a plan to sell surplus government-owned dairy products to Egypt.

A month ago, the United States sold one million tonnes of subsidised flour to Egypt in the first major move directed against the European Community's farm policy.

U.S. officials said basic agreement was reached on selling 30,000 tonnes of butter and 12,000 tonnes of cheese to Egypt during talks with Cairo on the flour deal.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Stanley feels we should make better use of our abundant resources. He's trying to make fuel out of bellybutton lint."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HORTT  
PIPNY  
TAIGEY  
YINJET

WHAT HE SAID WHEN THE TEACHER GAVE HIM A ZERO FOR HIS WORK.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THAT'S

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OCTET JINGO FLAUNT DARING  
Answer: What happened to the guy who was always trying to act like a big shot at the office?—HE GOT FIRED

## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE Daily Crossword By Sara Hoffman

ACROSS  
1 Used symbols  
6 Top-notch  
10 Batty  
14 Cour d'  
15 Depict  
16 Great Lake  
17 Mama, to a Leeds schoolboy  
18 Hindrance  
20 Holiday time  
21 "—fair in..."  
23 Square pillars  
24 Cowboy's milieu  
28 Webster end Defoe  
28 Harm  
30 Free-for-all  
31 Burning  
32 Neat one  
36 Sped  
37 One-man stunts  
38 DDE's command  
39 Famous alive  
42 Ats well  
44 Moslem priests  
45 Exhausts  
46 Short-legged dogs  
49 Action  
50 Loos or Bryant  
51 Profound  
52 Stadium chess  
55 French painter  
58 Blue—special  
60 Verve  
61 Crucifix  
62 Cafe patron  
63 Cozy home  
64 "The fresh — of night"  
65 Attire  
DOWN  
1 Arrived  
2 Norwegian king  
3 Resolva  
4 Chemical ending  
5 Tender insana  
6 Confuse  
7 Natural metals  
8 A Cole  
9 Lamb's mother  
10 cri  
11 Mountain spur  
12 Laal  
13 Haads: Fr.  
19 Rajah's wife  
22 Dress size: abbr.  
25 River to the Rhine  
26 Place for material  
27 Sliding millieu  
28 Indus valley people  
29 At a great distance  
30 Fountain orders  
32 Condemns  
33 Standor  
34 Solar disc  
35 Bends the head  
37 Baa! it!  
40 Ramole  
41 Libalous remark  
42 Leaked  
43 A Flemish  
45 Well-known John  
46 German region  
47 Anoin't  
48 old style  
48 — Kermer  
49 Fasts  
51 Arabie fatesen  
53 Sweetstop  
54 Possessive  
56 Fert — Cal.  
57 Iowa college  
59 Household duty

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35  
36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47  
48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59  
60 61 62 63 64 65

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# WORLD

## Australian death toll reaches 71

MELBOURNE (R) — The known death toll in the Australian bush fire disaster rose to 71 Saturday as the fires continued to burn around the cities of Melbourne and Adelaide, officials said.

The total equals the grim record set in Jan. 1939 when similar fires swept through the state of Victoria on a day known as "black Friday."

Police found two more bodies Friday night and Saturday in the devastated Dandenong Hills region to the east of Melbourne near the town of Cockatoo, Victorian State Police and Emergency Services Minister Race Matthews told reporters.

Cockatoo was virtually wiped out last Wednesday night in one of the worst of the violent fires which have burnt out vast areas of south eastern Australia between here and Adelaide this week.

So far 45 people are known to have died in Victoria — 29 of them in or near Cockatoo — and 26 in neighbouring South Aus-

tralia. The total is expected to rise as rescue workers sift through the ruins.

Senior firefighters are also worried that the present light winds could freshen and blow the fires out of control again before they can be properly extinguished.

Two fires are already out of control, but they are in remote areas north of Melbourne and are not yet posing any threat to life or property, a Victorian Country Fire Authority (CFA) spokesman said.

All other fires near here and around Adelaide have been contained and are under control, he added.

However, CFA chairman Laurie Newell said: "The fire danger is still perilously high." The CFA is afraid the temperatures of up to 30C (over 100F) forecast for Saturday and Sunday could stir up the wind.

With the immediate danger passed, clearing up operations are under way and the total damage

bill in both states is now put at more than 400 million dollars (\$390 million).

Mr. Matthews said in Victoria, the number of houses destroyed is now estimated at 2,400 with property damage valued at 180 million dollars (\$175 million).

At least 350,000 hectares of forest in the state have been burnt out. This is valued at about \$50 million.

In South Australia, the state government has given a preliminary estimate that about 200 houses were destroyed and livestock losses totalled at least 200,000 sheep and 6,000 cattle.

Arson suspected

MELBOURNE (R) — A bush fire which roared through an Australian township with the heat of an atomic bomb, killing 29 people, could have been arson, police said Saturday.

The town of Cockatoo 50 kilometres east of Melbourne, was

virtually obliterated on Wednesday night in one of the worst of the fires which have ravaged vast tracts of South Eastern Australia between Melbourne and Adelaide.

Chief superintendent Don Plant, in charge of police operations in the fire swept areas of Victoria, said: "Reports indicate a number of fires in the region were deliberately lit."

"There is every indication the fires at Cockatoo were also the results of arson," he said, adding that detectives were investigating the causes of the fires.

Two volunteer fire crews, 11 men and one woman, died in the flames that engulfed Cockatoo and several other townships in the heavily wooded Dandenong Hills region.

A fire management expert, Prof. Ian Ferguson of Melbourne University, described the Cockatoo blaze as 30 times more intense than normal bush fires.

## 'Dallas' creates culture row

PARIS (R) — France's left-wing establishment hit back at the U.S. media in the latest skirmish over President Francois Mitterrand's efforts to proclaim Paris as the world's capital of culture.

At the centre of this week's bout involving alleged anti-Americanism by the Socialist government was a cultural get-together last weekend inspired by Mr. Mitterrand.

And like other recent flare-ups in the feud, much of the argument has been about the U.S. television series "Dallas."

Invited by Culture Minister Jacques Lang, over 400 celebrities from five continents spent two days in the grand amphitheatre of the Sorbonne University discussing the role of creative genius in fighting the recession.

French ire was particularly raised by the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, all of which zeroed in on the time the assembled artists and intellectuals devoted to criticising "Dallas."

Currently rated in the top three programmes on French state television, Dallas has been enshrined as the symbol of U.S. "cultural imperialism" since Mr. Lang denounced it at a United Nations conference last year.

The daily Le Matin hit back Friday by saying: "Others produce coconuts and phosphates. We produce culture and art. Just like in gastronomy, we are the first, or at least we affect to believe so."

## A tour of an Iraqi POW camp 'Iranian POWs range in age from 10 to 70'

By Nicholas Moore

RAMADI, Iraq (R) — Iraq Friday showed foreign journalists one of its prisoner-of-war camps where the commandant said Iranians captured in the Gulf War were treated strictly in accordance with the Geneva convention on POWs.

Some 1,000 Iranian prisoners, said to have been captured in the most recent fighting, were paraded through Baghdad last weekend. Those in this camp were prisoners taken in earlier battles.

All those interviewed said they were satisfied with their conditions. Some indicated they did not like the presence of television cameras which, they said, were there for Iraqi propaganda purposes.

The commandant, a brisk military police major, said this was among several POW camps. He declined to say how many he had in his care or how many Iranians Iraq had captured in the 29 months of the war.

He said prisoners here ranged in age from 10 to 70 and that irregular Islamic revolutionary guards outnumbered regular Iranian soldiers.

Three of 23 teenagers shown to

reporters were certainly not old enough to shave.

An old man in the sick-bay, which was spotlessly clean and well-stocked with basic drugs, said he was older than 60. Through an Iraqi interpreter he said he had high blood pressure.

Prisoners were housed in two-storey brick barracks blocks in a compound ringed with barbed wire. Some exercised, walking the perimeter or playing volleyball, while others were locked in their dormitories awaiting their turn outdoors.

A meal of rice and gruel was served. The kitchen, run by prisoners, was well scrubbed. Iraqi and Persian music blared throughout the camp over loudspeakers.

The commandant said work, which involved making bricks, was voluntary. He added that there was religious freedom and no political orientation, although prisoners were shown Iraqi newspapers and video film.

Journalists were able to roam fairly freely through the compound.

The commandant said POWs could receive and send letters and were regularly visited by representatives of the International Red Cross.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Armed Soviet jets intercept U.S. planes

WASHINGTON (R) — Two Soviet fighters armed with air-to-air missiles intercepted two U.S. planes from the carrier Enterprise in the North Arabian Sea last December, the Pentagon said. It said the Soviet Forger fighters came from the aircraft carrier Minsk. Officials said unnamed Forger aircraft had intercepted U.S. planes in the past, but this was the first time forgers equipped with missiles had done so. The navy, in providing details, said the interception of a Navy A-7 Corsair attack plane and an F-14 fighter occurred on Dec. 16 while the Enterprise and Minsk were conducting routine operations in the Arabian Sea.

### U.S. feminist to be tried for murder

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — California Governor George Deukmejian has signed an order for the extradition of feminist leader Gimmy Foat to New Orleans to stand trial for a 17-year-old murder, his spokesman said. Mrs. Foat, 42, who is on leave of absence as president of the California branch of the National Organisation for Women, which seeks equal rights for women, has been held in jail since she was arrested in Los Angeles on Jan. 11. She has been charged in New Orleans in connection with the murder of a 62-year-old Argentine businessman, Moises Chayo, in 1965.

### Ex-CIA agent sentenced to jail

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Former CIA agent Edwin Wilsoo was jailed for 17 years Friday and fined \$145,000 for conspiring to smuggle 20 tonnes of plastic explosives to Libya to 1977. He had been found guilty on all four counts of an indictment on Feb. 5 after a two-week jury trial here. Judge Ross Sterling refused a request by federal prosecutors that Wilsoo be sentenced to no extra years in prison as a "dangerous special offender" for allegedly threatening to have two government prosecutors and several witnesses killed.

### Soviet deputy minister sacked

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet deputy aviation industry minister has been sacked for failing to prevent corruption among his employees travelling abroad, the official Communist Party daily Pravda said Saturday. Deputy Minister M. Michailov and his departmental foreign relations chief were relieved of their duties because of carelessness and weak control over the finances of aviation exhibitions abroad, the paper said. The event leading to the dismissal was the arrest of a ministry official who had misappropriated foreign currency allowed him on trips abroad to organise aviation exhibitions. He had amassed a sum equal to 60,000 roubles (\$80,000).

### Malaysia hangs woman of Chinese origin

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The first woman to go to the gallows under Malaysia's tough internal security laws was hanged with her husband at dawn Saturday, prison officials said. The woman, Thye Siew Seong, a 41-year-old seamstress, and her husband, Lim Re Song, 40, a building worker, were sentenced to death in July 1981 for possessing nine hand grenades. Their appeals for clemency were rejected last June.

### 5 extremists caught in England, Germany

BONN (R) — Five right-wing extremists have been arrested, two of them in England, on suspicion of carrying out bomb attacks against United States military personnel and installations in West Germany, West German and British officials said Saturday. The justice ministry in Bonn said three men were arrested in West Germany last Tuesday and police in Boumemouth, England, said two more had been arrested at German police request in the nearby town of Poole.

## White House defuses environment agency row

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration defused a political row Friday night by agreeing to give congressional investigators access to disputed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) documents, a Justice Department spokesman said.

The agreement was reached after 11 hours of negotiations between White House and Justice Department officials and congressional leaders. The con-

frontation that threatened to damage the administration was over documents relating to the embattled agency's handling of a \$1.6 billion fund for cleaning up dangerous waste.

Justice Department spokesman Thomas Decair said the agreement protected the interests of both sides and the confidentiality of the documents.

He added that Congress agreed under the settlement to drop eff-

orts to prosecute EPA administrator Anne Gorsuch for contempt for refusing to turn over the documents to congressional committees.

The row erupted last December when Mrs. Gorsuch refused, on President Reagan's orders, to provide a House of Representatives sub-committee with documents relating to the EPA's clean-up programme.

The dispute snowballed into a

probe of the EPA's entire operation by six congressional committees. Congressmen accused EPA officials of conflict of interest, political favouritism and general mismanagement.

Mr. Reagan claimed executive privilege over the documents. He said their release to Congress would jeopardise the agency's prosecution of companies that have failed to clean up hazardous waste sites.

## 60 dead in Assam

NEW DELHI (R) — As many as 60 people have been killed in fresh fighting and election riots in India's northeastern state of Assam, according to press reports Saturday.

The latest reported death toll followed clashes in central areas of the state during the past 36 hours involving local Assamese villagers, Muslim immigrants and tribal groups.

Accurate figures of the total number of dead in the past two weeks are unavailable because the victims of the worst reported incident — a massacre of villagers last weekend — have not been fully counted. But most estimates put the overall toll at more than 300.

The final state of voting for the state assembly is due to take place Sunday, ending a week of balloting amid what analysts say is India's bloodiest election since independence.

Fighting in the central Manganal area between local Hindu Assamese and Muslim villagers killed at least 21 people and nine bodies were found in other areas,

the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

The elections are opposed by Assamese militants demanding the expulsion from the state of illegal immigrants, mostly Muslims from Bangladesh.

Violence erupted amid their campaign to boycott the polls. Clashes between Assamese and immigrant or tribal groups in favour of the elections accounted for most of the dead. But many people were also killed when police opened fire to disperse mobs attacking them or candidates.

The Hindustan Times reported from Assam Saturday that as the bloodshed increased, reaction within the ruling Congress (I) Party varied from shocked disbelief to questioning the wisdom of advice to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to hold elections.

The two main militant groups opposing the elections Friday charged the administration had totally failed to protect the lives and property of local people.

Thousands of para-military police have been brought in from outside the state to quell the election violence.

## Rainier speaks of wife's death

NEW YORK (R) — Prince Rainier of Monaco says in an exclusive interview published Saturday a specialist was certain his wife, Princess Grace, would have been paralysed on one side if she had survived a car crash last September.

Doctors said the former actress suffered a stroke while driving in the hills overlooking Monaco with her daughter, Stephanie. She was 52 when she died.

Prince Rainier, 59, said in the interview with Life magazine that doctors told him his wife could have lived but it not been for the crash.

"I must say it's a dreadful thing to hear after you've lost somebody that, well, she needn't have died. The neurologist who came from Paris said that he was sure that, if the princess had lived, she would have been paralysed on one side," he said.

But if she had survived, he said, "there was a lot of damage in the brain. I think that (paralysis) would have been terrible for her."

Discussing his future plans, he said he would step down when he thought his son, Prince Albert, 24, was ready to take over.

"I've always said that I don't want to drag on. He's young, he's got plenty of stamina and will, and he knows the place well," the prince said. "He was born here, educated here, so I think the day he feels ready, why not? I don't believe in making him wait until I die off."

The prince quoted his daughter, Stephanie, as saying just after the accident that Princess Grace had panicked and lost control of the car.

"Stephanie was so serious when she said, "Oh, mommy panicked. She didn't know what to do. She lost control," he told the American magazine.

## Colombian drug traffickers dupe model and escape

AUCKLAND (R) — A Colombian woman, wanted in the U.S. for her alleged role in a big drug smuggling conspiracy, has slipped out of New Zealand after an identity switch plot involving a Swedish model, police said Saturday.

They said the Colombian, Susie Schuster, left on a plane using the air ticket and passport of a 19-year-old model from Stockholm who was tricked into coming to New Zealand by a smooth-talking Latin American.

The model, Anne-Kristin Kilmin, was stranded in Auckland after her companion fled with her documents, turned them over to Schuster and joined her on a flight back to South America.

Miss Kilmin and the 26-year-old Colombian woman were both fair, green-eyed and petite. Police said the Swedish girl was the victim of an elaborate scheme to get Schuster home without being detained by U.S. drugs investigators on the way.

Schuster was arrested at Auckland airport after a tipoff from U.S. authorities last July.

The Americans unsuccessfully

sought her extradition on charges of conspiring to import cocaine and laundering millions of dollars of drug syndicate money. She was freed on Nov. 12 after a long court hearing.

Police said they believed Miss Kilmin was duped into flying to New Zealand by a Colombian called Hernandez. He wooed her with lavish compliments while she was modelling for television commercials in the South American country last month.

He gave her \$2,000 for clothes and bought her a return air ticket for the trip to Auckland on Feb. 2. But after two days of high living he walked out, leaving her with a \$900 hotel bill.

Police said Schuster and Hernandez caught a flight to Sydney on Feb. 6. They went on to Paris and then to Bogota without Schuster being noticed by U.S. authorities.

They added that Schuster had telephoned friends in Auckland to say she was back home in Cartagena.

Miss Kilmin refused to talk to reporters about her experience. "I just want to go home," she said.

## Police detain Nkomo on his way to peace council

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe opposition leader Joshua Nkomo was detained by police Saturday when he tried to board a flight to South Africa, aides told reporters.

They said Mr. Nkomo was being held in a police camp in Bulawayo, capital of the troubled southwestern province of Matabeleland.

Mr. Nkomo, veteran leader of the opposition ZAPU Party, has been accused by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government of fomenting unrest in Matabeleland.

The ZAPU officials said Mr. Nkomo had been invited to address a meeting of the World Peace Council in Prague on Feb. 21 and 22 and was on his way to Johannesburg to catch a connecting flight to Czechoslovakia.

He was taken away by uniformed police when he tried to board a South African Airways flight at Bulawayo airport, they said.

No government comment was immediately available.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Neither vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q 8 7  
 ♥ A 5 2  
 ♦ Void  
 ♣ A K 10 7 6 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 6 2  
 ♥ Q 10 7 3  
 ♦ 7 5  
 ♣ J 9 8 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ 10 9 5  
 ♥ Void  
 ♦ A K J 10 9 8 3  
 ♣ Q 4 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 4 3  
 ♥ K J 9 8 6 4  
 ♦ Q 6 4 2  
 ♣ Void

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 3 0 3 Pass 5 NT  
 Pass 6 ♦ Dbic Pass  
 Pass Pass  
 Opening lead: Seven of ♠.

No one was really happy to see Trump Coup Tommy make his reappearance at the bridge club. All of them had lost considerable sums as his partner when he indulged in his idiosyncracies. And their winnings when Tommy was at his best—on those occasions when trumps broke badly—were small consolation.

Tommy had hardly sat down at the table when this hand was dealt. No one keeps Tommy out of the bidding—it is almost a waste of time preempting against him. We don't blame North for getting excited about his hand. He was considerably disappointed to learn that his partner had only one of the three top trump honors. West's

double was flirting with death.

West led a diamond and Tommy ruffed in dummy. He ruffed a club in hand and, had there been no double, he quite likely would have continued with a trump to the ace. But now he led the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and taken by the ace as East let go a diamond—to Tommy's delight!

Another club ruff provided the entry for a diamond ruff, and on the ace-king of clubs, Tommy discarded his remaining diamonds. This was the position:

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q 8 7  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ 10 7

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 6 2  
 ♥ 10 7 3  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —

**EAST**  
 ♠ 10 9 5  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ A K J  
 ♣ —

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 4 3  
 ♥ K 9 8  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —

Tommy led a club from the table and ruffed with the eight. West was helpless. If he overrudded, he would have to provide Tommy with an entry to his hand in either spades or trumps, and declarer would make the rest with a spade finesse. So East pitched a spade. But Tommy countered by taking the spade finesse, cashing the ace and then leading a club, on which he stuffed his last spade. West was forced to ruff and lead a trump into declarer's tenace. Making six-odd!

## Discontent escalates steadily in troubled Matabeleland province

By Tonic Sakaike

BULAWAYO — Zimbabwe's government is warning people in troubled southwestern Matabeleland province of dire economic consequences unless they co-operate in removing political dissidents.

Violence has troubled Matabeleland, home for 1.4 million people mostly owing political allegiance to opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU Party, for more than a year.

At least 120 people have died in unrest which Robert Mugabe's government blames on disgruntled guerrillas from Mr. Nkomo's disbanded ZIPRA army. ZIPRA fought in the Rhodesian civil war before Zimbabwe's independence in 1980.

Last week government ministers told villagers whom they accused of harbouring dissidents that the violence could halt development in Matabeleland and spell economic disaster for future generations.

The government has so far shu-

nned talks with ZAPU, which it accuses of complicity in the violence.

Instead it is trying to end the violence by tough military action and appeals to the self-interest of villagers it accuses of sheltering bandits.

At one meeting in Filahusi, about 120 kilometres southwest of Bulawayo, Education Minister Dzingai Mutumbuka said rebels had forced many schools to close, leaving idle children to roam the countryside.

He said teachers were either fleeing the province or refusing to serve there. "It's your children who will suffer if they do not get an education," he told a crowd. But the parents heard his plea in sullen silence.

Government members who led Prime Minister Mugabe's ZANLA guerrillas during the civil war are convinced from their war experience that peasants are sheltering dissidents.

The peasants deny this and accuse troops hunting dissidents of brutality.

Some villagers who say they

fear harassment by troops from a North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade army unit have drifted to Bulawayo, capital of Matabeleland.

About 70 have set up camp as refugees at a church there. They told Reuters last week that none of them had been assaulted by soldiers but reported hearing of assaults.

Two men, aged 69 and 78, said they had hurried two people shot by government troops in Bembezi.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

north of Bulawayo.

One refugee said he had watched soldiers beat up a man they thought was a ZAPU Party chairman. When told he had long resigned, the soldiers had apologised, he added.

In parliament last week Mr. Nkomo, facing a censure motion accusing him of trying to undermine the government, accused security forces of mass murders, rape and looting in the curfew areas of Tsholotsho, Nkayi, Lup-

ane, Nyamandlovu, Bubi and Nkayi.

Government ministers accused ZAPU leaders of organising the rebels to force the secession of Matabeleland and of making false or exaggerated charges to have the troops pulled out.

Recently Mr. Nkomo told a news conference that at least 95 people, one of whom, former President Josiah Gumedze, turned out later to be alive, had been killed by government forces.

Ministers touring Matabeleland blamed dissidents for rape, robbery and murders in the province and said bandits often posed as government troops, wearing the same camouflage.

The ministers urged peasants to distinguish the government from the ruling ZANU-PF Party. They said money voted last year for development in Matabeleland had been returned to the treasury, rejected as coming from ZANU-PF.

The government vowed to rid Matabeleland of dissidents, but says this will be difficult without support from ordinary people.

Some professional people —

lawyers, doctors and businessmen — in Bulawayo said many civilians blamed the government for the violence.

They felt the sacking of Mr. Nkomo and three of his lieutenants from the coalition cabinet last year was largely responsible for the escalation of rebel violence.

Others said the Ndebele-speaking people of Matabeleland were obstinate and wanted to rule Zimbabwe despite their numerical weakness compared with the Shona.

The government questions why dissidents should kidnap and kill whites if they are waging a tribal war against the Shona. It says this proves the rebels are agents for power-hungry politicians rather than for their tribe.

Ministers said Matabeleland, less developed than Mashonaland, was in danger of lagging even further behind if dissidents continued to disrupt development.

Rebels have destroyed millions of dollars worth of equipment for constructing vital roads, dams and schools in the province.